

Cervical cancer screening and treatment in Zambia/Malawi

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Within the newly launched ZaMaC project on the integration of NCD services in existing healthcare structures in Zambia and Malawi this PhD project will focus on the implementation of cervical cancer screening and treatment. Starting from a literature research, followed by a gap analysis of the current status of cervical cancer services in Malawi and/or Zambia and contrasting with national and international guidelines and strategic plans, the candidate should develop the phased implementation of missing services according to the latest scientific evidence and tailored to the local context in light of limited resources. The implementation should be comprehensive, including data generation. The development and application of SOPs and disease management programs will be part of the work. The analysis of baseline data with regard to service supply and quality but also cancer related parameters and their comparison between both countries and facilities will be the scientific output. Additionally, the comparison between baseline assessment and the situation at a later stage of the project might be possible, depending on the pace of the implementation. The ZaMaC project is a triangular project of the Institute of Public Health in Heidelberg and two partner organisations located in the capitals of Zambia and Malawi. The partner organisations are both governmentally recognized private HIV counselling, testing and treatment centres, covering more than 30.000 clients each, and currently extending to NCD service integration. At least two trips to Malawi and/or Zambia are necessary to conduct the research project. The candidate should be highly interested in global health aspects and cancer research, and in particular in public health issues in African settings. We expect a self-organized and highly motivated personality with very good command of English, sensitive to other cultures, and able to cope with unexpected project developments. Basic skills in qualitative and quantitative methods are necessary, ideally with prior experiences in one of the software tools Stata/SAS/SPSS.

Cooperating partners: CHRESO Ministries, Lusaka, Zambia; Lighthouse Trust, Lilongwe, Malawi